

Application No.: 09/894,912

Docket No.: 30266/37260A

AMENDMENTIN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-61 and 66-73, without prejudice, as they are directed to a non-elected invention. Please amend claims 62, 64 and 65 and new claims 74-75 as follows.

B1 62. (Amended) A method of supporting proliferation or survival of a stem cell or germ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 13 or the mature protein coding portion thereof, wherein said amount is effective to maintain survival of or promote proliferation of said cell.

64. (amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

B2 65. (amended) The method of supporting proliferation or survival of a stem cell or germ cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C, wherein the amount is effective to maintain survival of or promote proliferation of said cell.

B3 74. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

75. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.